

CLAIMS:

1. A navigation assembly for use in a vehicle not originally equipped with navigational capabilities, the navigation assembly comprising:
 - 5 a portable navigational device; and
 - a mounting assembly for mounting on a support pillar of the vehicle and sized and configured to removably receive the navigational device.
- 10 2. The navigation assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the navigational device is not particularly sized and configured to fit an existing space within the vehicle.
3. The navigation assembly as claimed in claim 2, wherein the support pillar is a pillar directly above the vehicle's windshield.
- 15 4. The navigation assembly as claimed in claim 3, wherein the mounting assembly includes -
 - a trim piece,
 - a base secured to the trim,
 - 20 a docking station mounted within the base, and
 - a retractable face plate mounted within the docking station.
5. The navigation assembly as claimed in claim 4, the mounting assembly further including electrical connections for connecting the navigational device to a power source and a data source supplied by the vehicle.
- 25 6. The navigation assembly as claimed in claim 5, wherein the docking station includes a speaker for providing audible navigation instructions.
- 30 7. The navigation assembly as claimed in claim 6, wherein the navigational device is a global positioning satellite device including -
 - a navigation component,

a processor coupled with the navigation component,

a memory coupled with the processor,

a display,

an input, and

5 a housing for housing the navigation component, the processor, and the
memory.

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8. A mounting assembly for mounting a conventional, portable navigational device in a vehicle not originally equipped with navigational capabilities, the mounting assembly comprising:

- a base secured to trim covering a support pillar of the vehicle; and
- 5 a docking station mounted within the base and including a cut-out sized and configured to receive the navigational device.

9. The mounting assembly as claimed in claim 8, wherein the navigational device is not particularly sized and configured to fit an existing space within the
10 vehicle.

10. The mounting assembly as claimed in claim 9, further including a retractable face plate mounted within the docking station, such that when the navigational device is mounted within the docking station, the retractable face plate
15 will retract generally flush with a rear face of the docking station, and when the navigational device is removed from the docking station, the retractable face plate will retract forward, such that the plate is generally flush with a front face of the docking station.

20 11. The mounting assembly as claimed in claim 10, wherein the support pillar is a pillar directly above the vehicle's windshield.

12. The mounting assembly as claimed in claim 11, the mounting assembly further including electrical connections for connecting the navigational device to a
25 power source and a data source supplied by the vehicle.

13. The mounting assembly as claimed in claim 12, wherein the docking station includes a speaker for providing audible navigation instructions.

30 14. The navigation assembly as claimed in claim 8, wherein the navigational device is a global positioning satellite device including -
a navigation component,

a processor coupled with the navigation component,

a memory coupled with the processor,

a display,

an input, and

5 a housing for housing the navigation component, the processor, and the
memory.

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15. A method of providing navigational capabilities to a vehicle not originally equipped with such capabilities, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a portable navigational device;

5 providing a mounting assembly, wherein the mounting assembly is sized and configured to removably receive the navigational device;

removing trim from a support pillar of a vehicle, wherein the trim was installed during manufacture of the vehicle;

providing substantially similar trim having the mounting assembly secured thereto;

10 installing the trim on the support pillar of the vehicle; and

removably mounting the navigational device in the mounting assembly.

16. The method as claimed in claim 15, wherein the navigational device is not particularly sized and configured to fit an existing space in the vehicle.

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17. The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the mounting assembly includes- a base secured to the trim,

a docking station mounted within the base, and

a retractable face plate mounted within the docking station.

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18. The method as claimed in claim 17, the mounting assembly further including electrical connections for connecting the navigational device to a power source and a data source supplied by the vehicle.

25 19. The method as claimed in claim 18, wherein the docking station includes a speaker for providing audible navigation instructions.

20. The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein when the navigational device is mounted within the docking station, the retractable face plate will retract generally
30 flush with a rear face of the docking station, and when the navigational device is removed from the docking station, the retractable face plate will retract forward, such that the plate is generally flush with a front face of the docking station.

21. The method as claimed in claim 15, wherein the navigational device is a global positioning satellite device including -

a navigation component,

5 a processor coupled with the navigation component,

a memory coupled with the processor,

a display,

an input, and

a housing for housing the navigation component, the processor, and the

10 memory.

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